

Message Text

PAGE 01 DACCA 03873 280547Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 280505Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0776

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 3873

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BG, IO, PK

SUBJECT INDO-PAK TLAKS - GOP REQUEST

REF: NEW DELHI 9929; ISLAMABAD 6996; AND 7027;

STATE 170337; DACCA 3848

1. DUE TO A DELAY IN TRANSMISSION, THE REFERENCED
TELEGRAMS DID NOT REACH US UNTIL MID-MORNING AUGUST 28.

2. WE ARE GRATIFIED THE DEPARTMENT TOOK THE POSITION
IT DID AND CONCUR FULLY WITH THE SEVERAL ARGUMENTS
ADVANCED BY NEW DELHI AND ISLAMABAD AGAINST THE
UNITED STATES PLAYING A ROLE IN TRANSMITTING THE
ABDUL SATTAR MESSAGE TO THE BDG.

3. GIVEN THE CLIMATE OF OFFICIAL OPINION IN DACCA,
OUR INTERVENTION WOULD HAVE HAD UNFORTUNATE
CONSEQUENCES. WHILE UNCERTAIN OF GOI INTENTIONS IN
THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, THE BDG CONTINUES TO
BE DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS OF GOP MOTIVES. SET AGAINST
REPEATED AMERICAN SUPPORT OF THE SIMLA PROCESS, OUR
BELATED AND UNPRECEDENTED ARRIVAL WITH A PAK MESSAGE -
WHATEVER ITS MERITS - WOULD HAVE REINFORCED THE BDG'S FEARS
PAKISTAN DOES NOT SERIOUSLY SEEK A SETTLEMENT AND WOULD HAVE
ACCOMPLISHED THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT ABDUL SATTAR
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PAGE 02 DACCA 03873 280547Z

CLAIMED THE GOP WISHES. AN AMERICAN-CARRIED MESSAGE
WOULD FURTHERMORE HAVE REVIVED DEEPLY ROOTED BENGALIEE
SUSPICION OF AN AMERICAN-PAK CONSPIRACY. THE REVIVAL
OF THIS UNFORTUNATE BELIEF WOULD PREJUDICE OUR

PROVIDING SUPPORT OR INFLUENCING AT A LATER DATE ANY
PART OF THE SETTLEMENT PACKAGE TO WHICH THE THREE
PARTIES EVENTUALLY AGREE.OF GREATER IMPORTANCE,
WE WOULD EXPECT THE BDG REACTION TO AN AMERICAN MOVE
OF THE SORT ABDUL SATTAR SUGGESTED TO BE SUFFICIENTLY
EMOTIONAL AND HOSTILE TO REVERSE SERIOUSLY THE PROGRESS

WE HAVE MADE DURING THE PAST MONTHS IN NORMALIZING
OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. EARLY IN THE EVENING OF AUGUST 27, THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY CALLED THE CHARGE TO ASK HIM TO MEET WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL HOSSAIN AT 16:15 AUGUST 28 (LATER CHANGED
TO 16:30). THE MINISTRY DID NOT SAY WHAT HOSSAIN WISHED TO
DISCUSS OR WHY. DESPITE THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS
DEPARTURE FOR ABIDJAN (DACCA 3848) THE MINISTER IS
STILL IN TOWN. WE ASSUME THE NEW DELHI TALKS ARE THE
REASON FOR THE DELAY IN HIS DEPARTURE. WE NOTED OUR
COLLEAGUES AT THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION WORKED LATE
LAST NIGHT AND THE DEPUTY HICOM ARRIVED ONE HOUR LATE
FOR A RECEPTION HE GAVE FOR THE DEPARTING INDIAN
ECONOMIC COUNSELOR. DASGUPTA, THE INDIAN FIRST
SECRETARY POLITICAL, ALLOWED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER
LATER THE SAME EVENING THAT HE TOO HAD BEEN HELD LATE
AT HIS OFFICE, AND ADDED CRYPTICALLY THE DELHI TALKS
HAD REACHED A MOST DIFFICULT PHASE. WE CONCLUDE
FROM THESE INDICATORS THAT THE GOI AND BDG ARE IN
CLOSE AND CONSTANT COMMUNICATION ON THE NEW DELHI
TALKS. HAD WE ACCEPTED ABDUL SATTAR'S REQUEST AND
CIRCUMVENTED THE ESTABLISHED CHANNEL OF TRILATERAL
COMMUNICATION, WE WOULD HAVE RUN SERIOUS RISK OF
ALIENATING BOTH THE BANGALEES AND INDIANS. NEWBERRY

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